CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A light control system for use on a vehicle having a brake-light and a headlight, system comprising:

a vehicle speed sensor; and

a control unit coupled to said brake-light, to said headlight, and to said vehicle speed sensor, said control unit for illuminating said brake-light when said headlight is on and said vehicle is not moving.

2. A light control system according to claim 1 further comprising a PRNDL selector coupled to said control unit, said PRNDL selector capable of selecting at least PARK and REVERSE modes of operation and wherein said control unit illuminates said brake-light when said vehicle is not in PARK and is not moving.

3. A light control system according to claim 2 wherein said control unit illuminates said brake-light when said vehicle's deceleration reaches a predetermined threshold.

4. A light control system according to claim 2 wherein said vehicle has a reverse-light coupled to said control unit and wherein said control unit illuminates said reverse-light when said vehicle is not in REVERSE and is moving backwards.

5. A light control system according to claim 4 wherein said control unit comprises:

a transmission control module coupled to said PRNDL selector for generating a PRNDL position signal;

a brake system coupled to said transmission control module and to said vehicle speed sensor for generating a vehicle speed signal;

a body control module coupled to said transmission control module, said brake system and said headlight for generating a headlight signal indicative of whether said headlight is on or off; and

an engine control module coupled to said transmission control module, said brake system, and said body control module, and responsive to said PRNDL position signal, said vehicle speed signal, and said headlight signal for selectively generating brake-light and reverse-light control signals.

6. A light control system for use on a vehicle having a brake-light, the system comprising:

a PRNDL selector capable of selecting at least PARK and REVERSE modes of operation;

a vehicle speed sensor; and

a control unit coupled to said brake-light, to said PRNDL selector and to said vehicle speed sensor, for illuminating said brake-light when said vehicle is not in PARK and is not moving.

7. A light control system according to claim 6 wherein said vehicle comprises a headlight and said control unit is coupled to said headlight for illuminating said brake-light when said headlight is on and said vehicle is not moving.

8. A light control system according to claim 7 wherein said control unit illuminates said brake-light when said vehicles deceleration reaches a predetermined threshold.

9. A light control system according to claim 7 wherein said vehicle has a reverse-light coupled to said control unit and wherein said control unit illuminates said reverse-light when said vehicle is not in REVERSE and is moving backwards.

10. A light control system for use on a vehicle having a reverse-light, the system comprising:

a vehicle speed sensor;

a PRNDL selector coupled to said control unit, said PRNDL selector capable of selecting at least PARK and REVERSE modes of operation; and

a control unit coupled to said reverse- light, to said vehicle speed sensor, and to said PRNDL selector, for illuminating said reverse-light when said vehicle is not in reverse and is moving backwards.

11. A light control system according to claim 10 wherein said vehicle is provided with a brake-light and wherein said control unit illuminates said brake-light when said vehicle is not in PARK and is not moving.

12. A light control system according to claim 11 wherein said vehicle has a headlight and wherein said control unit is coupled to said headlight for illuminating said brake-light when said headlight is on and said vehicle is not moving.

13. A light control system according to claim 12 wherein said control unit illuminates said brake-light when said vehicles' deceleration reaches a predetermined threshold.

14. A light control system for use in a vehicle having a brake-light, a reverse- light, and a headlight, the system comprising:

a vehicle speed sensor;

a PRNDL selector capable of selecting at least PARK and REVERSE modes of operation; and

a control unit coupled to said brake-light, to said reverse-light, to said vehicle speed sensor, and to said PRNDL selector, for illuminating said brake-light when said headlight is on and said vehicle is not moving, when said vehicle is not in PARK and is not moving, and when said vehicle's

deceleration reaches a predetermined threshold, and for illuminating said reverse-light when said vehicle is not in REVERSE and is moving backwards.

15. A method for controlling the lights on a vehicle having a brake-light and a headlight, the method comprising:

monitoring the speed of the vehicle;

determining if said headlight is on or off; and

illuminating said brake-light when said headlight is on and said vehicle is not moving.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein said vehicle comprises a PRNDL selector capable of selecting at least PARK and REVERSE modes of operation, said method further comprising:

monitoring said PRNDL selector; and

illuminating said brake-light when said vehicle is not in PARK and is not moving.

17. A method according to claim 16 further comprising:

monitoring the vehicle's deceleration; and

illuminating said brake-light when said vehicle's deceleration reaches a predetermined threshold.

18. A method according to claim 16 wherein said vehicle further comprises a reverse-light and wherein said method further comprises illuminating said reverse-light when said vehicle is not in REVERSE and is moving backwards.

19. A method of controlling lights on a vehicle having a brake-light and a PRNDL selector of the type which is capable of selecting at least PARK and REVERSE modes of operation, the method comprising:

sensing the speed of said vehicle;

monitoring said PRNDL selector; and

illuminating said brake-light when said vehicle is not in PARK and is not moving.

20. A method of controlling lights on a vehicle having a reverse-light and having a PRNDL selector capable of selecting at least PARK and REVERSE modes of operation, the method comprising:

sensing the speed of said vehicle;

monitoring the state of said PRNDL selector; and

illuminating said reverse-light when said vehicle is not in REVERSE and is moving backwards.